

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W  
-----129459 090142Z /75

R 080640Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8549  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7728

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK  
SUBJECT: ZIA SUSPENDS SENTENCES OF PTV EMPLOYEES:  
SIND GOVERNMENT FREES HUNGER STRIKERS

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 2047, (B) ISLAMABAD 7153

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF SENTENCES FOR THE PAKISTAN TV EMPLOYEES SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR OF RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT LAST FEBRUARY. THE TV EMPLOYEES WERE ARRESTED UNDER THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER LAW AND MARTIAL LAW REGULATION 10 (WHICH FORBIDS INTERFERENCE WITH GOVERNMENT PROPERTY) WHEN THEY TOOK OVER TV STATIONS IN LAHORE, RAWALPINDI, PESHAWAR, AND MULTAN IN FEBRUARY DUE TO THE PAKISTAN TELEVISION MANAGEMENT'S REFUSAL TO MEET THEIR SALARY,  
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BENEFIT AND PROMOTION DEMANDS.

2. THE SUSPENSION OF SENTENCES IS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE TOWARD TV WORKERS. THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMAZAN BEGINS IN PAKISTAN AUG. 7 AND THIS IS A TRADITIONAL TIME FOR PARDONS. GEN ZIA ALSO ANNOUNCED SUNDAY THAT ALL PRISONERS IN THE COUNTRY

WOULD HAVE THEIR SENTENCES SHORTENED BY 60 DAYS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITATIVE PAKISTAN TIMES  
THE SIND GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DECIDED TO RELEASE  
33 PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED DURING THE  
HUNGER STRIKE BEING CONDUCTED BY MINHAJ BARNA AND  
HIS ASSOCIATES AT THE KARACHI PRESS CLUB.

END UNCLASSIFIED/BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

4. COMMENT: THESE GESTURES OF GOODWILL ON THE PART  
OF THE GOP SHOW THAT IT TAKES ACTION WHEN INDIVIDUALS  
OR GROUPS SPPEAR TO BE DISRUPTING PUBLIC ORDER BUT  
IT DOES NOT HESITATE TO RELEASE OR PARDON WHEN IT  
FEELS THE THREAT HAS PASSED. BOTH PTV AND THE PRESS  
IN PAKISTAN ENJOY CONSIDERABLY MORE FREEDOM THAN  
THEY DID PRIOR TO THE JULY 1977 COUP. HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ISLAMA07728  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780325-0052  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780888/aaaacwbp.tel  
**Line Count:** 79  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 722c0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 ISLAMABAD 2047, 78 ISLAMABAD 7153  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1807966  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZIA SUSPENDS SENTENCES OF PTV EMPLOYEES: SIND GOVERNMENT FREES HUNGER STRIKERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, PK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014